during the Xth Plan period to provide more benefits to the unemployed educated youth in the country. In order to make the Scheme more effective and extend its coverage, the parameters of the Scheme with regard to age, educational qualification, income criteria, residency criteria, project cost, activities covered, provision of collateral security, etc. are being constantly reviewed.

Training of Teachers of TIFR

†2619. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research has received any proposal from the Government of Chhatisgarh with regard to training of science and mathematics teachers of primary to higher secondary level;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;

(c) the other States where such schemes have been implemented; and

(d) the details of the achievements of the scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not Applicable.

(c) The Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research carried out a five year programme (1995—2000) of training teachers of science and mathematics of Ashram schools (for Tribal children) of the Tribal Development Department of the State of Maharashtra. The Programme covered a total of 526 secondary school teachers in Thane and Nashik Divisions.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Additionally, HBCSE has been involved in teacher orientation programmes in collaboration with a number of national networks of schools (Atomic Energy Educaiton Society, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan), National Council of Teacher Educators (drawing teacher educators from different States of the country) and several Non-Government organisations working in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. It also has an ongoing project of orienting primary school teachers from the schools of Brihanmumbai Muncipal Corporation.

(d) The Teacher Orientation Programme organised by HBCSE are widely appreciated for their quality and effect. The Ashram school programme mentioned above was very beneficial for tribal pupils and resulted in improvement in students' performance as conveyed by the Government of Maharashtra.

Safety of Food Stuff

2620. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how much food stuff (quantity and money wise) have been saved from perishing by using the Atomic Energy Department's services during the year 2000-2001;

(b) the locations of these services;

(c) the food items exposed to radiation; and

(d) the elongated shelf life of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) About four hundred (400) tonnes of spices have been processed in the year 2000-2001 in the only Technology Demonstration Plant set up the Department of Atomic Energy. These services are located at the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology Complex, Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

(c) Onion powder, Chilli powder, Chilli whole, Turmeric powder, Bishop seeds, Nutmeg and Curry powder etc. have been subject to radiation.